

Energy and Environment
Thursday, May 13, 2010
3:03 P.M.
Third Floor, City Hall

Present:	Chair:	CM B. Ackerson
	Vice Chair:	CM Peden
	Members:	CW Ward-Pugh and CM Heiner
Absent:		CW Shanklin (excused absence)

Chairman Ackerson began the meeting by announcing the members of the committee that were present. A quorum was established.

Special Items For Discussion – Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

John H. Colliver, Chair of the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District; Cheryl L. Bersaglia, Education Program Coordinator and Kurt Mason, District Conservationist with Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS) spoke. A PowerPoint Presentation was presented to the committee (attached). The following was reviewed:

- History
 - 1935 Congress declares soil and water conservation a national policy and priority
 - Dust Bowl occurred
 - 1937 President Roosevelt recommends to each state the legislation leading to state conservation programs
 - 1940 Kentucky passes KRS 262 allowing landowners to create conservation districts in their counties
 - 1941 Kentucky's first conservation district is South Logan County
 - 121 Conservation Districts currently across the Commonwealth, organized along county lines
 - Exception of Logan County which includes the North Logan and South Logan districts
- Conservation District
 - Subdivision of state government
 - Governed by a 7-member board of supervisors
 - Elected by the registered voters within the District
 - Assumes the lead role in their county in promoting the conservation and wise use of their soil, water and other natural resources
 - www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/262-00/CHAPTER.HTM
- Purpose of Conservations Districts
 - KRS Chapter 262 (attached)
 - Conserve and develop all renewable natural resources (land, water, trees, etc.)
 - Coordinate (public and private, local, state and federal) assistance to landowners and users to address natural resource concerns
- For more than 66 years, the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District has provided land use assistance to private property owners, farmers, governmental agencies and the business community
- Mission for Louisville Metro is to help reduce harmful land use that impacts land and water resources through effective leadership, technical assistance and outreach programs, in collaboration with government, business, and the public
- Administration and Staff
 - Elected by registered voters in the county
 - Serve without compensation

- Four year terms
- Monthly meetings open to the public
- Meetings held at 4229 Bardstown Road, Suite 117
- Board of Supervisors
 - Chair
 - Vice-Chair
 - Secretary-Treasurer
 - 4 other Board Members
- District Advisor
- District Staff
 - District Administrator
 - Education Program Coordinator
- Division of Conservation
 - Field Representative
- Funding
 - Operating Funds
 - Receipts
 - 85% Louisville Metro
 - 10% Kentucky Division of Conservation
 - 5% Grants
 - Expenses
 - 70% Staff
 - 10% Operations
 - 20% Program Delivery
 - Out of 121, 70 counties funded through a millage levy as of 2008
 - Desire to have a millage levy in Jefferson County
- Focus – To Inform and Educate
 - Information Clearinghouse
 - Free publications on natural resources
 - Education materials, curricula, equipment and other resource materials for distribution or on loan
 - Provide assistance to the public and direct complaints
 - Serve as part of the approval process for agricultural burn permits
 - Promote Agriculture Water Quality Act and assist with Agriculture Water Quality Plans
 - Land owners who have 10 or more acres of land where they produce livestock or crops
 - Community Outreach – Activities that get the message across
 - Newsletter circulation of over 5,900
 - Two times a year
 - Natural Solutions Watershed Management Workshop
 - Beargrass Creek Cleanup and demo project
 - Project XL Workshop
 - Floyds Fork Watershed Roundtable
 - Salt River Watershed Watch
 - Better Ingredients, Better Soil, GREAT Water Quality
 - Adult education initiative to promote Best Management Practices for the reduction of polluted storm water runoff
 - 33rd Annual Turf and Landscape Short Course, UK and Jefferson County Extension Service
 - Lawn/Garden Soil Care Workshop at Louisville Nature Center
 - Women in Agriculture Field Day
 - Booth, Displays and Exhibits
 - Events held throughout the year, such as Fairs, Festivals, Field Days, Dinners, etc.

- Food Farming and Our Environment
 - All Day Professional Development Workshop for 100 Teachers at a Local, Working Farm
- Locally and Statewide
 - Kentucky Association for Environmental Education
 - Annual presenter to teachers and other environmental educators at annual conference
 - Kentucky Waterways Alliance
 - Displays, exhibits and presentations at various public functions
- Arbor Day Tree Giveaway
 - District distributes about 3,000 tree seedlings each year
- Youth Fishing Derby
 - Provided funds for stocking Watterson Lake with Bass and Catfish and prizes for the fishing contest
- Special Projects – Habitat Restoration
 - Funded by Toyota Tapestry Grant
 - Three Schools – Seneca High School, St. Pius and Goldsmith Elementary
- Environmental Education
 - Over 16,000 persons participated in outreach programs last year
- District Programs – In schools and outdoors programs
 - Soil Development
 - Soil Ecosystems
 - Erosion
 - Water Cycle
 - Stream Ecosystems
 - Rocks and Fossils
 - Life Cycles and Adaptations
 - Groundwater and Karst
 - Wetland, Pond and Stream Studies
- Teach all grade levels and civic groups – All year long
 - Partnered with Louisville Water Company
- Successful Programs
 - Biologist in Training at Beargrass Creek
 - Every Kid Outside with Jefferson Memorial Forest
 - And Red River Gorge
 - Jim Claypool Art and Writing Contest
 - Envirothon
 - Regional Science Fairs
 - Kentucky Forest Leadership Camp
- USDA Connection
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS)
 - Kurt Mason, District Conservationist
 - Serving Jefferson, Oldham and Bullitt Counties
 - Acting District Conservationist for Henry and Trimble counties
 - Memorandum Agreements
 - US Department of Agriculture – Secretary of Agriculture
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service – State Conservationist
 - Access to other State and Federal Natural Resource Agencies through existing memorandums
 - Technical Assistance Programs 2009
 - 1,100 people assisted
 - 19 governmental units assisted
 - Example - Planning Commission
 - Development site reviews
 - HUD sites reviewed for slope, stability and soil concerns

- 23 groups assisted with natural resource concerns
 - Technical/workgroup meetings
 - Project reviews and consultations
 - USDA Farm Bill Conservation Programs in Jefferson County 2009
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program
 - Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
 - Conservation Reserves Program
 - Conservation Security Program
 - Wetland Reserves Program
 - Grassland Reserves Program
 - Floodplain Easement Program
 - Emergency Watershed Protection Program
 - Farm & Ranchland Protection Easement Program
 - 2009 USDA Special Community Farm Bill Grants
 - Available to private land owners
 - Announced through the Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Endorsed through the Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Water Quality Concerns
 - Long range program
 - Minimize impact
 - Retrieve Federal funds for damages
 - Opportunities to fence off streams
 - Drainage Issues
 - MSD does a lot for drainage issues within the Louisville community
 - Sediment and Erosion Control
 - Rural landscapes
 - Agriculture and Rural Concerns
 - Ponds
 - Addressing storm water
 - Areas with native trees and shrubs
 - Urban Technical Assistance
 - Drainage issues, look at soil problems, address sinkholes, etc.
- Local, State, Federal Partnership
 - Kentucky Water Quality Cost Share Program
 - Conservation District is instrumental in assisting folks obtaining State Funds
 - PACE Program – Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements
 - Conservation District signs off on the applications
 - Receives Soil and Land Use information from the USDA source
 - Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Planning
 - Agricultural District Establishment
 - Conservation Equipment Revolving Loan Program
 - Open Agricultural Burning Application Review
 - Agricultural Disaster Programs
- Future Efforts
 - Water Quality and the EPA Consent Decree
 - Conservation District fills a niche that MSD and other agencies cannot
 - Not a regulatory agency
 - Positive working relationship with community, its leaders, and local agencies
 - Can work one-to-one and year-to-year with homeowners to improve stormwater quantity and quality
 - Channel education and improve knowledge with individual influence
 - Need for funds
 - Improving Soil and Water Quality Needs

- Full-time Soil and Water Technician
 - Aid homeowners with water quality issues, yard by yard
 - Promote and administer a homeowner Conservation Cost Share Program
 - Additional Educator
 - Reach more schools in Jefferson County
 - Provide more education opportunities in neighborhoods
 - Partners – Past and Present
 - Louisville Metro Government – Biggest partner
 - Reaching out to build more partnership – need for funding
- Father of Conservation quotes
 - “Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.”
 - “We shall never achieve harmony with land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations, the important thing is not to achieve but to strive.”

Elements of discussion were:

- Annual Budget is about \$120,000
 - Metro Government funds about 80%
 - Decline in received amount
 - Requesting about \$400,000
- Areas of alternative funding for the Jefferson County area, possibly under utilized
 - Wetland Reserves Program
 - Easement program for wetlands
 - Could be used by private landowners
- USDA Farm Bill, effective this year, exempted governmental agencies participation in Farm Bill Programs
- Emergency Conservation Program announced the weekend of May 1st
 - Federal funds to assist in clean out of impaired streams
 - Match grant with community 75 Federal/25 local
 - Difficulty identifying the responsible agency to sign the document
- Talk of location change, but not moving central office
- Memorandum of Agreement
 - Initiation of renewal
 - Local district planning and annual efforts
 - Conservation District submits to USDA
 - Possible efforts of the Metro Council to insure that is continues
- Metro Council efforts to assist in outreach of grant opportunities
 - Newsletters, E-mail to council district residents
- Not a regulatory agency by State Statute
- Millage Tax
 - Would require Metro Council action to have in Jefferson County
- Website
 - www.jeffcd.org

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.
KLP